



# America's Mission: The United States and the Worldwide Struggle for Democracy in the Twentieth Century (Princeton Studies in International History and Politics)

*By Tony Smith*

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The strength and prestige of democracy worldwide at the end of the twentieth century are due in good measure to the impact of America on international affairs, argues Tony Smith. Here for the first time is a book that documents the extraordinary history of American foreign policy with respect to the promotion of democracy worldwide, an effort whose greatest triumph came in the occupations of Japan and Germany but whose setbacks include interventions in Latin America and Vietnam.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

"[Smith's] account of the 20th century is just about as close to unputdownable as it gets in the genre of political history, and ends up advocating what seems to be an appropriate level of optimism for what remains, after all, a terrifying and chaotic world."--**Washington Post**

"*America's Mission* provides a comprehensive historical review of the record of American liberal internationalism. Tony Smith argues persuasively that liberal internationalism is not a cultural quirk of unsophisticated Americans. Rather, it has built on powerful global historical trends. The liberal internationalist streak in American foreign policy has, in turn, been responsible for shaping a liberal world order conducive to American security and economic interests."--**Francis Fukuyama, *New Republic***

"This work, formidable in scope and scholarship, is a rousing defense of liberal Wilsonian internationalism. . . . [Smith's] historical account [of attempts to implant democracy] is accompanied by a sophisticated analysis of the perspectives on democratization of Marxists, comparativists, and realists, who hold respectively, says the author, that the United States will not, cannot, and should not promote democracy worldwide."--**David C. Hendrickson, *Foreign Affairs***

"Smith elegantly ties explanation of the past to prescription for the future. No other contemporary political scientist . . . has connected those two dimensions to this subject so well."--**Mark P. Lagon, *Perspectives on Political Science***

"*America's Mission* is a book with a mission. Its aim . . . is nothing less than to overthrow the hitherto dominant theory dealing with American foreign affairs and to put in its place a different one."--**Theodore Draper, *New York Review of Books***

"This contentious study of US foreign policy is sure to generate new debates about the ideals and realities that inspire and legitimize US foreign policy."--**Choice**

### **From the Back Cover**

"A historically sweeping, theoretically ambitious study of American attempts at promoting liberal democracy

abroad, this is the most subtle and thorough examination of a "mission" that has had more than its share of successes, halts, detours, and deviations. No student of America in this world will be able to ignore it: there is simply no comparable volume."--**Stanley Hoffmann, Chairman, Center for European Studies, Dillon Professor of the Civilization of France**

"No one concerned with America's role in the world can afford to ignore the powerful argument and impressive scholarship of this landmark study."--**Ronald Steel, University of Southern California, School of International Relations**

"Breathtaking in its coverage. . . . The author combines historical narrative with political analysis in dazzling fashion, particularly on Woodrow Wilson, whose pragmatic idealism is the leitmotif of this book."--**Arthur S. Link, Princeton University**

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